

ABSOLUTE RATING: Good
IMPROVEMENT RATING: Below Average

Number of districts with students like ours: 15.

The absolute ratings for those districts ranged from average to good. For improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to average.

Definitions of District Rating Terms

Excellent- District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

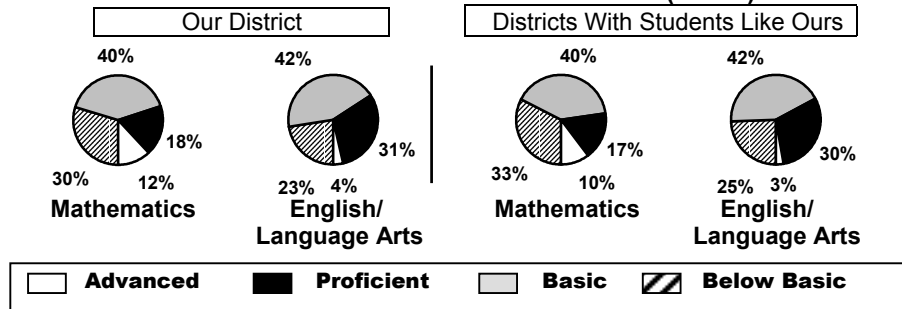
Good- District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average- District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average- District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory- District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Percent of Seniors Passing the Exit Exam	Percent of Seniors Qualifying for LIFE Scholarships	Percent of Students Scoring Basic or Above on the PACT	
			ELA	Math
All Students	94.2%	26.4%	77.4%	70.3%
Students with disabilities other than Speech	75.4%	2.5%	44.4%	36.4%
Students without disabilities	94.2%	27.3%	80.8%	73.6%
Gender				
Male	92.3%	27.0%	73.1%	69.5%
Female	94.2%	26.0%	82.6%	71.6%
Ethnic Group				
African-American	87.3%	8.3%	63.8%	53.9%
Hispanic	90.9%	11.1%	77.5%	67.0%
White	96.1%	34.6%	85.3%	79.5%
Other	85.7%	50.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Lunch Status				
Free/ Reduced-Price Lunch	87.3%	5.8%	65.7%	56.7%
Pay for Lunch	95.3%	32.6%	88.1%	82.3%

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	First-time Examinees		
	1999	2000	2001
Our district			
Passed all 3 subtests	72.4%	74.8%	72.3%
Passed 2 subtests	14.6%	12.8%	16.4%
Passed 1 subtest	8.4%	8.1%	7.0%
Passed no subtest	4.6%	4.3%	4.4%
Districts with students like ours			
Passed all 3 subtests	67.2%	72.0%	71.7%
Passed 2 subtests	17.6%	15.2%	16.2%
Passed 1 subtest	9.8%	8.5%	8.0%
Passed no subtest	5.4%	4.4%	4.1%

LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions

	Eligible	Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement	Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement
Our District	26.4%	55.8%	27.5%
Districts Like Ours	20.8%	52.7%	22.2%

College Admissions Tests: Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

	SAT Verbal	SAT Math	SAT Total	ACT English	ACT Math	ACT Reading	ACT Science	ACT Total
	2000	2001	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
District	494	497	992	18.6	19.9	19.9	20.4	19.7
State	484	486	966	18.7	18.8	19.2	19.3	19.2
Nation	505	506	1019	20.5	20.5	20.7	20.7	21.0

These tests were administered to samples of students:

Terra Nova Test: A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	47.8	50.0	43.1	50.0	58.4	50.0	50.5	50.0
Grade 7	45.8	50.0	59.4	50.0	54.7	50.0	53.9	50.0
Grade 10	59.6	50.0	59.5	50.0	62.4	50.0	59.1	50.0

National Assessment of Education Progress : A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	4	1998	4	6	18	23	33	32	45	39
Writing	8	1998	0	1	15	23	64	59	21	17
Mathematics	4	2000	2	3	16	23	42	43	40	31

DISTRICT PROFILE

INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

	This District	Change from Last Year	Districts With Students Like Ours	Median District
DISTRICT				
• Dollars per student	\$5,424	N/A	\$6,269	\$6,464
• Prime instructional time	89.9%	Down from 91%	90%	89.4%
• Student-teacher ratio	22 to 1	N/A	21 to 1	20.2 to 1
• Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.5%	N/A	0.4%	0.6%
STUDENTS (n=24,821)				
• Advanced placement/ int'l baccalaureate program exam success ratio	56.7%	N/A	46.9%	43.8%
• Attendance Rate	95.5%	Down from 96%	95.9%	95.7%
• Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	6.2%	N/A	4.7%	5.8%
• Taking PACT (Math) off grade level	5.3%	N/A	4.2%	4.5%
• Retention rate	5.2%	Down from 5.7%	5.5%	6.0%
TEACHERS (n=1,569)				
• Professional development days per teacher	6.5 Days	Down from 6.9	7.3 Days	7.8 Days
• Attendance rate	95.5%	Down from 95.9%	95.3%	95.2%
• Advanced Degrees	37.5%	Down from 38.8%	49.9%	44.4%
• Continuing contracts	78.3%	Down from 82.9%	85.8%	81.4%
• Out-of-field permits	1.7%	Up from 0.3%	1.9%	2.2%
• Teachers returning from the previous year	91.6%	Up from 91.5%	90.8%	89.5%
• Average salary	\$37,546	Up 4.5%	\$38,716	\$37,143

DISTRICT FACTS

DISTRICT				
• Annual dropout rate	3%	No change	3%	2.9%
• Percentage spent on teacher salaries	54.9%	N/A	52.1%	50.9%
• Superintendent's years in the district	6	N/A	5	3.5
• Parent conferences	81%	N/A	85.8%	81.0%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/A	Excellent	Excellent
• Number of schools	37	No change	9	8
• Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of magnet schools	0	N/A	0	0
• Portable classrooms	9.5%	N/A	4.9%	6.5%
• Attendance rate of district office staff	98.6%	Up from 96.7%	98%	97.5%
• Average administrative salary	\$62,718	Up 4.9%	\$66,301	\$64,098
STUDENTS				
• Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Percent of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Suspensions and expulsions	257	N/A	162	100
• Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs	18.1%	Up from 17.7%	14.6%	10.5%
• Percentage with disabilities other than speech	8.9%	Up from 7.4%	11.3%	10.5%

Aiken School District
1000 Brookhaven Drive
Aiken, SC 29803



Grades K-12

Enrollment: 24,821 Students

Superintendent Dr. Linda B. Eldridge 803-641-2428

Board Chair Dr. John B. Bradley 803-641-2431

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual District Report Card	2001
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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The School District of Aiken County is the sixth largest school district in the state, providing educational services to over 25,000 students. Geographically, the district contains all of Aiken County and a portion of Saluda County. There are five attendance areas within the county. Each attendance area covers various contiguous communities. Having supervisory duties over these attendance areas are five assistant superintendents who report to the county Superintendent of Education.

There are 38 schools, including the Career and Technology Center. The ethnic composition of the district is 65 percent White, 34 percent Black, and 1 percent Hispanic, Asian American, and other.

The school district is an award-winning educational system, recognized at both state and national levels. Regarding achievement tests, the vast majority of students achieve above the state average. On nationally normed tests, our students exceed the national average. Students in the top ten percent of their class matched the nation's top ten percent on the SAT with a score of 1197.

The School District of Aiken County receives much support from its parents and the community. The administration is dedicated to exploring creative and innovative ways to present the best education possible to all its students.

South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at

www.myschools.com